

Pucklechurch News



Winter 2012

Funded by the Parish Council

www.pucklechurch.org

♥ HeartStart Pucklechurch

We in the Pucklechurch HeartStart group have been very busy over the last few months, and we are pleased to let you know that we have now raised £7000 through sponsorship from the Parish Council, local businesses, work awards, grants, holding a dance, collection boxes, and local village organisations who are working hard to raise money for the project.

The Heartbeat Ball was very successful. It was lovely to have the opportunity to dress up and take a twirl around the dance floor. The atmosphere was fantastic and the feedback was very positive. We thank Riffroads for providing excellent music suitable for all ages. The tickets, raffle, and games raised £600.

We took delivery of our second defibrillator in January and hope to have it installed at the Pucklechurch Village Sports and Social Club shortly. We are well on our way to having enough money for the third defibrillator as well.

Pucklechurch villagers have been supportive throughout the project, and we are very grateful for all the fundraising you have been doing as individuals or through clubs or organisations. We still have some way to go and the 50:50 Challenge is still active, so if you are planning to contribute to this, please contact me.

In addition, we now have three active members qualified as First Responders, plus one who is taking time out at the moment and another who has left Pucklechurch temporarily. We also offer Basic Life Support Sessions to any group that would like to learn more about the defibrillators and how to use them.

As you can see we remain a committed group. If you are interesting in joining us as a group member or willing to train as a First Responder, please contact me on 937 4252 or by e-mail at angelajhallett@gmail.com

Angela Hallett

**Ladies
decked
themselves
out for the
Heartbeat Ball**



Pucklechurch REVEL

The Revel committee are making preparations for Revel 2012, which this year will start with a children's event on Saturday, 9th June, and finish with the Beer Festival on Friday and Saturday, the 22nd and 23rd. Revel Day will be as usual on the third Saturday in June, which this year is the 16th. The reason for the changes is that the half-term holiday is a week later this year, and many people will be away. Revel Day will extend into the evening with the Skinny Dippers (remember them from last year's Cider Festival?) performing on the Rec. The theme for this year's parade is the Olympics.

We are planning to hold a number of events outside Revel Week, so keep a look out for posters around the village and visit the Pucklechurch Community Website. The first event this year was the Cider Festival, which was held on 27th January. The next event is a quiz at the Rose and Crown on Sunday, 11th March, at 7.30pm. Look out for further details nearer the time.

This year the allocation of funds will be based on the effort groups and individuals make towards Revel events and Revel Day. However, the committee do appreciate that this is more difficult for some groups and that some groups have more members than others, and this will be taken into consideration.

There will be another photo competition in the summer and an exhibition in October, so as you go through the year, print off any photos you are really pleased with and put them in an envelope so that there won't be a mad dash to find some photos at the competition's deadline in September.

Elaine Stone, Revel Co-Chair

**Hear Ye! Hear Ye!
Come One, Come All
to the
Revel Quiz
at the
Rose and Crown
Sunday, 11th March
7.30pm start**

**All monies raised go to Revel
to support village groups**



St. Thomas-à-Becket

Ash Wednesday

Wed, 22nd Feb 7.30pm Holy Communion

Mothering Sunday

Sun, 18th Mar 10am Family Communion

Maundy Thursday

Thurs, 5th April 7.30pm Holy Communion

Good Friday

Fri, 6th Apr 10am All-Age Worship
2-3pm Last Hour at Cross

Easter Sunday

Sun, 8th Apr 10am Family Communion

St. James the Great, Abson

Easter Sunday

Sun, 8th Apr 11.30am Holy Communion

Church Jumble Sale

Saturday, 4th February, 2pm, Community Centre
Clothing, Bedding, Bric-a-Brac, Books, Cakes, Refreshments
and Raffle



Scarecrow Competition

Sunday and Monday, 6th and 7th May

Full details in next newsletter



Caring for Children

There is a national drive to find more foster carers and adopters for the UK's children in care. South Gloucestershire Council is one of the many authorities in the country looking to act on this locally. In addition, the authority is also looking to recruit more carers who can give regular short breaks to disabled children and young people under its Family Link Scheme.

If you are interested in any of these areas of family placement you can visit www.southglos.gov.uk/ChildrenYoungPeopleFamilies/AdoptionFostering where you will find a lot of useful information. If you wish to discuss any or all of the above, contact Tony Bray, the Family Placement Team's Recruitment & Marketing Officer, on 01454 866423.

Foster Care means being there.

VOTO (Villagers on Their Own)

During the last part of 2011, VOTO members visited the Arboretum and Slimbridge, enjoyed a meal at the house of one of our members, watched Pucklechurch Players' excellent performance of Funny Money, and had our Christmas meal at the Rose and Crown. We have a full calendar of events planned for 2012, which includes meals out, ten-pin bowling, visits to Newark Park and other National Trust properties, a boat trip, an evening at the races and a visit to the West Somerset Railway. We are also hoping to have a week away and a "Turkey and Tinsel" weekend away.

VOTO is a group is for single people over the age of 50. If you would like to join us or would like more information, contact Elaine on 937 3105 or email elainerudge@aol.com.



Pucklechurch Twinning Association

Throughout the year, Pucklechurch Twinning Association organises events for members and friends. Our first event in this year's programme is a bingo evening on Saturday, 25th February, in the PVSSC (St Aldam's Drive) at 8.30pm. We look forward to seeing anyone who enjoys a game of bingo. Refreshments will be available.

If you are interested in finding out more about Twinning, you are welcome to attend our next meeting on Monday, 5th March, at 8.30pm in the Community Centre meeting room, when we shall be outlining plans for the visit from Pringy. Our French friends are due to arrive on Saturday, 14th April, until Wednesday, 18th April. They will stay with us in our homes, so please make them feel welcome if you see them walking around the village.

Our visit to Pringy this year will take place from 27th to 31st October, so keep these dates free if you are interested in joining us.

For more information about joining Twinning or visiting Pringy, please contact Lesley Broom (937 2025) or Ann Smith (937 2030).

Valerie Broom

BINGO

Organised by Twinning
Saturday, 25th February
8.30pm
P.V.S.S.C.
(St Aldam's Drive)
Everyone Welcome!

Pucklechurch News

Funded by the Pucklechurch Parish Council

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Please email articles to editor@pucklechurch.org or drop them off to any one of us at the addresses above.

Please include your name and telephone number in case we have questions about your article. We reserve the right to edit all articles. We cannot be responsible for the accuracy of articles submitted for publication.

Copy Deadlines:

10th March for Spring issue (April)

10th May for Summer issue (June)

10th August for Autumn issue (September)

10th October for Christmas issue (November)

10th January for Winter issue (February)

For the latest news, visit the online version at
www.pucklechurch.org

On 5th December, Pucklechurch WI hosted an evening of 'Christmas Miscellany' for the Doynton WI Group in St Thomas à Becket Church. Ninety members attended, coming from Wick, Dyrham, Doynton, Marshfield, Wester-leigh, and Shortwood branches of WI. We were entertained with a piano recital by local boy James Westacott, a poetry reading by member June Case, and two performances by the choir Spectrum. In the interval, we all thoroughly enjoyed a wonderful supper of seasonal fare. Everyone agreed it was a memorable evening, made special by sharing it with so many WI members in our group.

Our own branch meeting on December 21st was mainly a social event with an American supper, and we were treated to a wonderful singing session by Naomi Willmott, who is a member of the WI singing group The Harmonies.

Both these events were brilliantly organised by our outgoing President Norma Pratt, who is stepping down after four years. During this time she has presided over a variety of meetings and successful social events. Norma has always encouraged us to take part in varied village activities including Revel floats and cream teas. Many members and friends are grateful to Norma for the enjoyable holidays and outings she has organised. Luckily for us all, she is going to continue to be on the WI committee and organise our trips.

As the new President, along with all Pucklechurch WI officers and members, I would like to thank Norma for her friendship, hard work and dedication, which have helped us to be a successful WI.

Pauline Alway, President

Pucklechurch NSPCC Support Group

We are preparing for our 20th auction to raise money for the NSPCC, and we need your help to make it our best yet. The event will take place at the Community Centre on July 7.

We are seeking goods and promises to go under the hammer. We like to have a range of items and services, so if you have any celebrity contacts or business buddies you think might help, please let us know. We'd be happy to receive new items for sale, from novelty knick-knacks to treasures from the attic. Offers such as babysitting and dog-walking also go down well. And, as it will be close to the start of the summer holidays, tickets for local attractions would be much appreciated.

All the money raised will go to the NSPCC's new service centre in Bristol, which is about to start some important work with families of babies that aims to reduce the number of injuries and deaths of infants in our city.

Meanwhile, we would love to see you at our next fund-raising event, which is our cheese and wine quiz at the Community Centre on March 17. Enter as a team of four if you can, but otherwise come on your own or in a twosome, and we will match you up with others.

Tickets are £10 a head. You'll need to buy them in advance from Julie on 937 2279, so we know how much booze and dairy stuff to buy.

As well as these two events, we plan to have a book stall at Revel and will be rattling tins outside supermarkets.

We are a small group and would welcome new members to join us in our fund-raising activities.

Linda Tanner

Walking to Health

Walking to Health in South Gloucestershire is the perfect way to explore your local area, make new friends and get fit!

Walking to Health provides local-led walks for people who want to get outdoors but enjoy the friendly, supportive environment of a group activity. Walks range from ¾ mile to 4 miles and are suitable for people of all ages and walking abilities.

To find out where the next walk is taking place, please get in touch with us 01454 868006, email foodandhealth@southglos.gov.uk, or visit www.southglos.gov.uk/walkingtohealth.



Pucklechurch without a Telephone Service?

Can you imagine if BT took away the telephone exchange and left Pucklechurch without phones? There was a time back in the early 1900s when many people didn't see a future for the telephone, and it wasn't until the 1960s that it became common for most households to have their own.

For most people, the old copper wires that were installed for their phones way back when are now delivering broadband Internet services to their homes. Even 15 years ago, the telephone companies were saying that this would be impossible.

The point is that technology and attitudes to technology change, and change is much faster today than even ten years ago. The next big change on this front will be super-fast broadband. "What will that do for us?" you may ask. Very quickly it will change the way we communicate, shop, entertain ourselves, and work. Everything from high-quality video communications with friends and family to TV on demand that allows you to watch what you want when you want will be common.

But super-fast broadband will not be provided to all communities at the same time. If you live in the city or the suburbs, you will fine, but rural locations are way down the list. Communities without super-fast broadband will not only lose out on TV on demand but might also find house prices dropping faster or not rising as much as areas with this service. Companies will be amongst the first to use this technology to transform the way they do business. And if you work from home, a super-fast broadband connection will be a necessity.

Would you move to a place that didn't have phone access? It won't be long before people are asking themselves the same about super-fast broadband. That it is why it's important for everyone with Internet access to go to the South Gloucestershire website and complete a questionnaire on super-fast broadband. Pucklechurch will only keep up if we, as a community, show there is a demand. Visit www.southglos.gov.uk/broadband to fill out a questionnaire. It takes less than 10 minutes.

Martin Smith

Parish Council Chairman's Notes

We are now well into the New Year, and I hope that it is successful for you all.

The update on the St Aldam's Play area is that it has not yet been handed over from South Gloucestershire Council to the Parish Council. When it is, the Council will review the situation and formulate plans that will be appropriate for the future management of the area.

The Council became aware of a property in Pucklechurch being used for training and accommodation for young people leaving care. This is an important step in the move towards independent living, but there were concerns over its suitability for the housing of ex-residents of Ashfield YOI. After seeking information from South Gloucestershire Council, Councillors sought a meeting with the organisation running the house and visited the location. We asked that Ashfield YOI residents not be housed here and were reassured this will not be the case. We were also informed that in 2012, the property would be used to provide respite care for foster families who look after much younger children.

The Council was invited to YOI Ashfield to be shown changes that will reduce light pollution. You may have noticed that the previously bright yellow lighting has now been replaced with a less obtrusive glow. It was gratifying to hear that the changes were brought about by a previous Council meeting where lighting was discussed and that this initiative will be shared nationally throughout SERCO.

Pucklechurch now has a Village Orderly, Joanne Ward. We welcome her to the role, which will involve litter-picking and minor maintenance jobs, and believe the Parish will be a tidier place for it.

The Council is pleased to see that the planning application for the new doctors' surgery has been submitted. This has gone ahead separately from the Oaktree Avenue development, which itself is awaiting the outcome of the village green application. I hope to be able to update you on this in the next issue of *Pucklechurch News*.

The Council will be raising the precept this year to cover increasing expenses, the Village Orderly, lost income and reserves. Please be assured that the decision has not been taken lightly.

Finally, don't forget to watch out for the Parish Council Surgeries being held on the first Saturday of each month at the Community Centre meeting room in Pucklechurch and the chapel meeting room in Shortwood.

Good Neighbour Scheme

The Pucklechurch and Shortwood Good Neighbour Scheme continues to help people in our Parish, be that with ongoing help or new calls. We're applying for a grant to give us funding to cover our insurance premium and other expenses for next year. We also have two new volunteers who have joined us. We've recently bought some promotional pens and fridge magnets, which we plan to put together into a small give away along with a leaflet that we're printing to tell people what we do and how to contact us.

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer or you know anyone who needs company or assistance with small household or garden tasks, please contact us.

Larisa, Sarah and Ross, Co-ordinators

PCA Pucklechurch Community Association

Christmas brought a good atmosphere to the Community Centre, as the usual group of helpers arrived to decorate the main hall and put up the tree. When it was finished, the hall looked really festive. Thanks to Roger Payne for the tree, and to the Jameses, Harrises, Holders and Abbotts for their help. A question about next year arose, however, because Christmas-time is one of the quietest periods for bookings. Is it worth decorating the hall and putting up a Christmas tree? We'd appreciate your views. Send any comments care of the PCA Secretary at 58 Abson Road or alan.holder@hotmail.co.uk

On a more prosaic note, I am pleased to report that the main kitchen now has a bright and shiny new boiler for hot drinks and a new sink (replacing the plastic sink that has been there since the dawn of time), thanks to a contribution from Revel and a donation from Talktalk.

For those of you looking to amuse children with a treat for a birthday, why not try indoor go-carting? Phone Anna on 937 4449, who will be pleased to give you more details.

The PCA still needs a secretary. If you feel that you would like to help, give Alan Holder a ring on 937 2818.

There is no longer a container for recyclable plastics at the Community Centre. YOI Ashfield has withdrawn their sponsorship of the collection because SGC now does kerbside collection of plastic bottles. It's a similar story for Christmas trees: South Glos recommends that you cut them up and place them in your green wheelie bin. Please don't bring your plastics or trees to the car park.

Alan Holder, Chair

Plans for New Surgery Underway

Plans for the new doctors' surgery in Pucklechurch were submitted in December in an application for full planning permission. By the time you receive this newsletter, the public consultation period will have passed. A decision is due from SGC's Planning Office before the end of February.

For a number of years, the plans for the surgery were part of a joint application for housing development submitted by Sovereign Housing Association. With the village green application holding up the housing development, however, Three Shires Medical Practice has negotiated with landowners and applied separately from Sovereign's development.

The plans submitted show a modern surgery with plenty of parking. The two-storey building would house multiple consultation rooms, a dispensary counter, offices and storage. Quite a contrast with the existing Pucklechurch surgery!

Though modern, the building would be clad in natural stone with a slate roof. Landscaping with trees, shrubs, and lawn is planned to soften the boundaries and make the site more attractive. The site is located in Oaktree Avenue on the open land next to 51 Oaktree Avenue and across from the houses on Merlin Ridge and Woodpecker Crescent. Access would be via a drive at the corner of Oaktree and the private drive that leads round to the houses at 51 to 58 Oaktree Avenue.

For more information, follow the link to the planning application from the home page of the Pucklechurch website at www.pucklechurch.org.

Jacki Berry

Beware of Deadly Daises

Are those lovely yellow daises in front of your house actually lethal? Ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*) is a common wild flower of the aster family. It's also called St James Wort, Ragweed, Stinking Nanny/ Ninny/Willy, and Staggerwort. Ragwort contains alkaloids that make it poisonous to animals; its toxins have a cumulative effect that eventually destroys the liver.



Although it is dangerous to all animals, people and most other animals rarely eat ragwort because it's bitter. Horses and cattle are particularly vulnerable because they may eat it when other food is scarce or in their hay, where it's less bitter. Sheep are less susceptible to the toxins, and some sheep actually like it, though it is still not healthy for them.

Given our rural location with plenty of livestock around, we should all be aware of this poisonous weed and take steps to eradicate it.

Ragwort starts its life as a pretty rosette of green leaves and grows to about two feet (600mm) tall with masses of yellow daisy-like flowers. Each plant can produce hundreds of flowers and thousands of seeds, which spread on the wind.

If you find ragwort in your garden, get rid of it. Use gloves because its toxins can be absorbed through the skin. If you see it growing on verges or public places, contact South Gloucestershire's Street Care unit on 01454 868000 or email them on



The Big Spring Clean 2012

As in previous years, volunteer groups across the Parish of Pucklechurch are urged to spring into action and clean up their

neighbourhoods and open spaces, helping to transform Pucklechurch as part of the South Gloucestershire Big Spring Clean 2012.

The Parish Council is running the Big Spring Clean 2012 in Shortwood on Saturday, 24th March, and in Pucklechurch on Sunday, 25th March. Everyone is encouraged to join in, friends, families, neighbours, community and voluntary groups, church groups, the schools and students, youth clubs, Scouts, Guides and businesses are all invited to take action against litter.

Fresh air and exercise are two benefits of the Big Spring Clean, but the best part is that residents and visitors alike will be able to enjoy the Parish looking at its best. Gloves and refuse sacks will be provided and a skip will be available for the rubbish.

Shortwood

10am, Saturday, 24th March
Meet outside the Chapel

Pucklechurch

10am, Sunday, 25th March
Meet outside the Scout Hut

Dates for Your Diary

February

- 24th Open Mic Night & Jam Session, 8:30pm, PVSSC St Aldam's Drive
- 25th Twinning Bingo Night, 8:30pm, PVSSC St Aldam's Drive, All Welcome

March

- 11th Revel Quiz, 7.30pm, Rose & Crown, All Welcome
- 17th NSPCC Cheese and Wine Quiz, Community Centre, 7.30pm, Tickets 937 2279
- 24th Shortwood Big Spring Clean, 10am, meet outside chapel
- 24th Twinning skittles evening, 7:30pm, PVSSC St Aldam's Drive, All Welcome
- 25th Pucklechurch Big Spring Clean, 10am, meet outside Scout Hut
- 30th Open Mic Night & Jam Session, 8:30pm, PVSSC St Aldam's Drive

April

- 14th through the 18th, guests from of our twin town Pringy arrive for four-day visit
- 27th Open Mic Night & Jam Session, 8:30pm, PVSSC St Aldam's Drive

May

- 6th Pucklechurch Scarecrow Trail, "Great British Characters"
- 7th Pucklechurch Scarecrow Trail continues
- 8th Happy Circle 'mystery trip'
- 23rd Annual Parish Meeting, 7pm, Community Centre meeting room
- 25th Open Mic Night & Jam Session, 8:30pm, PVSSC St Aldam's Drive

June

- 5th Happy Circle outing to Bideford
- 9th Revel children's event
- 16th Revel Day, parade, stalls, food, arena events, music
- 22nd Revel Beer and Cider Festival, 7-12pm, Star Inn car park
- 23rd Revel Beer and Cider Festival, 7-12pm, Star Inn car park
- 29th Open Mic Night & Jam Session, 8:30pm, PVSSC St Aldam's Drive

July

- 3rd Happy Circle outing to Severn Valley Railway
- 7th NSPCC Auction of Goods and Promises

August

- 7th Happy Circle outing to Poole Quay
- 18th WI and Gardeners' Club Home & Garden Produce Show
- 31st Open Mic Night & Jam Session, 8:30pm, PVSSC St Aldam's Drive



Pucklechurch Cricket Club It's never too early for nets!

Calling all cricketers – now is the time to start thinking about getting ready for the summer season and practice net sessions. Start dates have been arranged for February as follows:

- Senior Nets start Thursday, 23 February, at Yate International Academy, 6-8pm
- Youth Nets start Saturday, 26 February, at Yate International Academy, 10am-noon

Pucklechurch Cricket Club prides itself on its friendly and welcoming attitude towards all players, spectators and parents, and we have a lively social calendar of events to satisfy all ages.

Over the last year we have been making a concerted effort to raise extra funds so that we can improve and extend the cricket square, as well as providing a permanent practice net. Our curry and quiz night, harvest auction, and golf day have all helped towards achieving our target, but we still have a long way to go. We would therefore like to ask for your help. You may have already heard about 'easyfundraising', but if not, it's one of the simplest ways you can help to raise money for the club. If you shop online with retailers such as Tesco, Sainsbury's, Amazon, M&S, Argos, John Lewis, Comet, or 2000 others, then you can register as a supporter of PCC for free and raise money for us while you shop. You shop directly with the retailer as you would normally, but if you sign up to our 'easyfundraising' page and use links to take you to your chosen retailer, a percentage of whatever you spend comes directly to us at no extra cost to yourself. As well as being FREE to use, supporters can also access hundreds of exclusive discounts and voucher codes, so not only can you help us, you could be saving money for yourself. Sign up at:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/pucklechurchcc

Information about the club, nets, and our other activities can also be found on our website at www.pucklchurchcc.co.uk or by phone by contacting Dean or Vicky on 937 3227.

Gail Boyle

Volunteer Wanted

Pucklechurch News needs a new volunteer to help edit articles and proofread this newsletter. *Pucklechurch News* is published five times per year by a small team of volunteers. Good grammar, computer skills, and an eye for detail are crucial. Experience with editing and proofreading are desirable but not essential. We will provide training if required, and the team will provide ongoing support. If interested, contact the team at editor@pucklechurch.org or phone Valerie Broom on 937 2025 or Jackie Sexton on 937 3176.



Girlguiding UK

I'll Always Remember the Fifth of November

"She's going, and I'll bet they are too," I said to my husband Mike as we squeezed onto two tiny stools to sip our coffee and look out at Big Ben. A constant flow of people passed close by the tiny café window, and my experienced eye caught sight of Guide badges and neckerchiefs, Trefoil Guild scarves, and Scout uniforms.

Along with 500 others, I had received an invitation to attend the first Thanksgiving and Recognition Service in Westminster Abbey on 5th November 2011. I felt very honoured. Me, from rural Pucklechurch, being recognised for doing something I enjoy and believe in. I couldn't do it without my husband's support, so he was my obvious choice of guest.

We queued quietly, as British people do, to enter the abbey, having first been scrutinised by three red-robed clergymen to ensure only invited members entered the great building. I thought our ticket numbers would indicate specific seats but, no, it was first come, first served. I'm sure some people must have been seated for over an hour by the time we arrived. The nave was already full. I could see many leaders wore award ribbons and medals, and I felt very proud to be amongst them.

We were shown to our seats in the transept, expecting not to see very much. To our delight, a television screen had been set up to show us everything. The service also took place in different parts of the Abbey, so we had a direct view when two young people – a Queen's Guide and Queen's Scout – thanked the leaders for helping them achieve their awards. They said they could not have done it without the dedication of leaders. The whole service was very uplifting and ended with a feel-good factor.

This was soon quashed, however, as Abbey officials insisted we leave quickly as they began stacking and rearranging the chairs. There was another service in an hour's time and they needed to get ready. I really wanted to see the Baden-Powell memorial, now on the other side of locked choir screen gates. Fortunately, a lady steward took pity on four of us and led us through the choir stalls to stand and admire the impressive tablet with Scout and Guide flags flying on either side.

Now I shall always remember the fifth of November but for different reasons.

Rosalind Abbott

Mobile Library



The South Gloucestershire Mobile Library visits Pucklechurch every other Friday afternoon, stopping at three different locations. Look for it on the following dates and times:

February 3 & 17
March 2, 16 & 30
April 13th & 27th

Pucklechurch Village Hall, 2.30 to 2.45pm
Homefield Road Bungalows, 2.55 to 3.15pm
Homefield Road, 3.20 to 3.35pm